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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Makoto TSUJI et al.

Group Art Unit: 1797

Application No.: 10/568,429

Examiner: T. DUONG

Filed: February 14, 2006

Docket No.: 125559

For: FILTER CATALYST AND METHOD OF ANALYZING A CATALYTIC LAYER
THEREOF

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the January 5, 2010 Office Action, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1-4 are pending in this application. Non-elected claims 3 and 4 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102/§103

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as having been obvious over JP 09-276708 ("JP '708"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a filter catalyst where an analysis of a cross-sectional SEM photograph of the filter catalyst yields "a ratio of a number of pixels forming an outer periphery of the catalytic layer to a number of pixels forming the catalytic layer [that] is 0.5 or more." This ratio corresponds to the ratio of an outer periphery length of the catalytic layer to